

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3659

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0819

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, LU

SUBJ: GDR FOREIGN MINISTER WINZER VISITS LUXEMBOURG

SUMMARY: IN OFFICIAL VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG, GDR FOREIGN MINISTER OTTO WINZER OFFERED PRIVILEGED TRADE RELATIONS WHICH THE GOL AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENT PLAN TO EXPLORE WITH THE GDR BEGINNING IN JANUARY 1974. WINZER WAS CRITICAL OF ALLEGED FRG SLIGHTS TO THE "FULL SOVEREIGNTY" OF THE GDR BUT HE INSISTED ON THE PRIME IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING INTER-GERMAN TRADE. END SUMMARY

1. AFTER HIS VISIT TO BELGIUM, GDR FOREIGN MINISTER OTTO WINZER ARRIVED HERE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT ON NOVEMBER 30. HE MET PRIME MINISTER PIERRE WERNER, FOREIGN MINISTER GASTON THORN, AND HAD SEVERAL WORKING SESSIONS WITH GOL OFFICIALS BEFORE LEAVING LUXEMBOURG ON DECEMBER 3. MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS PAUL MERTZ GAVE US THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS OF WINZER'S VISIT.

2. MERTZ SAID THAT THE GDR WOULD NOT BE OPENING AN EMBASSY HERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WINZER EXPLAINED THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD STAFFING PROBLEMS WITH THE MANY NEW
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EMBASSIES BEING OPENED, THUS THE GDR EMBASSY IN BELGIUM

WILL CONTINUE TO COVER LUXEMBOURG. FOREIGN MINISTER THORN ACCEPTED WINZER'S INVITATION TO VISIT THE GDR BUT THORN OBSERVED THAT SUCH A VISIT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE LUXEMBOURG'S LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1974, AND THAT THE TRIP WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED ONCE AGAIN BY THE NEW LUXEMBOURG CABINET NEXT SUMMER. THE EAST GERMANS INSISTED ON A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ALTHOUGH THE LUXEMBOURGERS TRIED TO CONVINCE WINZER THAT COMMUNIQUEES SERVE LITTLE PURPOSE AFTER STRICTLY BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. WHILE THE LUXEMBOURGERS FINALLY AGREED TO A COMMUNIQUE (COPIES BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSEES), THE RESULTING DOCUMENT IS EXTREMELY GENERAL AND UNINFORMATIVE.

3. MERTZ SAID THAT THE EAST GERMANS WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING TRADE RELATIONS WITH LUXEMBOURG. THE GOL AGREED, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, TO OPEN TALKS BETWEEN THE BELGIUM-LUXEMBOURG ECONOMIC UNION (BLEU) AND THE GDR BEGINNING NEXT MONTH. MERTZ SAID THAT WINZER APPEARED CONVINCED THAT EXCELLENT TRADE OPPORTUNITIES EXISTED BETWEEN THE BLEU AND GDR, AND THE GOL DECIDED THAT IT HAD NOTHING TO LOSE IN EXPLORING THESE OPPORTUNITIES.

4. MERTZ SAID THAT WINZER SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME GIVING HIS ANALYSIS OF CURRENT GDR-FRG RELATIONS. WINZER SUPPLIED MANY ALLEGED EXAMPLES OF GDR WILLINGNESS FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE FRG WHICH HAD BEEN REFUSED BY BONN. WINZER SAID THAT THE GDR IS ESPECIALLY UPSET AT TWO CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE FRG: THE FIRST, IS BONN'S UNWILLINGNESS TO TREAT GDR PRESS REPRESENTATIVES AS "FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS" WHEN THEY WORK IN THE FRG; THE SECOND IS THE FRG PLAN TO INSTALL ITS OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS IN WEST BERLIN. DESPITE WINZER'S CONCERN FOR ALLEGED SLIGHTS ON THE PART OF THE FRG, THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTER INSISTED THAT INTER-GERMAN TRADE WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR THE GDR AND SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. MERTZ SAID THAT HE AND THORN WERE STRUCK BY WINZER'S SEVERAL REFERENCES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE GDR AND FRG.

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5. IN REFERRING TO THE GDR POSITION OF CSCE, WINZER GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ITEM HAVING TO DO WITH THE INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS IN THE FIRST BASKET WAS THE ONLY ISSUE WHICH REALLY CONCERNED THE GDR. THORN TOLD MERTZ THAT HE HAD FOUND WINZER EXTREMELY UNYIELDING ON THE QUESTION OF THE FREE FLOW OF PERSONS AND IDEAS AS OUTLINED IN THE THIRD BASKET OF CSCE.

6. IN THE LONG INFORMAL CONTACTS WHICH THE LUXEMBOURGERS HAD WITH WINZER, THEY FOUND THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS PARTY VERY WILLING TO DISCUSS ALL MATTERS THE GOL RAISED BUT ABSOLUTELY UNYIELDING IN POSITIONS WHICH MERTZ QUALIFIED AS "EXTREMELY DOGMATIC". ALTHOUGH WINZER NEVER DEVIATED FROM STANDARD SOVIET POSITIONS ON MAJOR ISSUES, MERTZ SAID THAT THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS ADVISORS DID LITTLE TO HIDE THEIR STRONG FEELINGS OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL SUPERIORITY WITH REGARD ESPECIALLY TO THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS AND EVEN TO THE RUSSIANS.FARKAS

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